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weight of cadmium in 100 parts of amalgam.

The depolarizer, which is placed in contact with the positive electrode, is a paste made by mixing mercurous sulphate with powdered crystals of cadmium sulphate and a saturated aqueous solution of cadmium sulphate.

The different methods of preparing the mercurous sulphate paste are described in the notes.<sup>2</sup> One of the methods there specified must be carried out.

For setting up the cell, the H form is the most suitable. The leads passing through the glass to the electrodes must be of platinum wire, which must not be allowed to come into contact with the electrolyte. The amalgam is placed in one limb, the mercury in the other.

The depolarizer is placed above the mercury and a layer of cadmium sulphate crystals is introduced into each limb. The entire cell is filled with a saturated solution of cadmium sulphate and then hermetically sealed.

The following formula is recommended for the e.m.f. of the cell in terms of the temperature between the limits 0° C. and 40° C.

$$E_t = E_{20} - 0.0000406 (t - 20^\circ) \\ - 0.00000095 (t - 20^\circ)^2 \\ + 0.00000001 (t - 20^\circ)^3.$$

#### SCHEDULE D

1. The conference recommends that the various governments interested establish a permanent international commission for electrical standards.

2. Pending the appointment of the permanent international commission, the conference recommends<sup>3</sup> that the president, Lord Rayleigh, nominate for appointment by the con-

<sup>2</sup> Notes on methods pursued at various standardizing laboratories will be issued by the scientific committee or the permanent commission, as an appendix to this report.

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with the above, Lord Rayleigh has nominated the following committee, which has been approved by the conference, viz: Dr. Osuke Asano, M. R. Benoit, Dr. M. N. Egoroff, Professor Eric Gérard, Dr. R. T. Glazebrook, Dr. H. Haga, Dr. L. Kusminsky, Professor G. Lippmann, Professor A. Röiti, Dr. E. B. Rosa, Dr. S. W. Stratton, Mr. A. P. Trotter, Professor E. Warburg, Professor Fr. Weber.

ference a scientific committee of 15 to advise as to the organization of the permanent commission, to formulate a plan for and to direct such work as may be necessary in connection with the maintenance of standards, fixing of values,<sup>4</sup> intercomparison of standards and to complete the work of the conference.<sup>5</sup> Vacancies on the committee to be filled by cooptation.

3. That laboratories equipped with facilities for precise electrical measurements and investigations should be asked to cooperate with this committee and to carry out, if possible, such work as it may desire.

4. The committee should take the proper steps forthwith for establishing the permanent commission, and are empowered to arrange for the meeting of the next conference on electrical units and standards, and the time and place of such meeting should this action appear to them to be desirable.

5. The committee or the permanent international commission shall consider the question of enlarging the functions of the international conference on weights and measures, with a view to determining if it is possible or desirable to combine future conferences on electrical units and standards with the international conference on weights and measures, in place of holding in the future conferences on electrical units and standards. At the same time it is the opinion of the conference that the permanent commission should be retained as a distinct body, which should meet at different places in succession.

#### OTIS TUFTON MASON

ON November 5, 1908, death claimed Professor Otis T. Mason, for the past six years head curator of the Department of Anthro-

<sup>4</sup> This will include the reconsideration, from time to time, of the E.M.F. of the Weston normal cell.

<sup>5</sup> With this object the committee are authorized to issue as an appendix to the report of the conference notes detailing the methods which have been adopted in the standardizing laboratories of the various countries to realize the international ohm and the international ampere, and to set up the Weston normal cell.

pology in the United States National Museum, one of the founders and past president of the Washington Anthropological Society, and an eminent worker in ethnology of world-wide reputation.

Professor Mason was born in Eastport, Maine, April 10, 1838, and was a descendant of several of the oldest American families. He graduated in 1861, master of arts, from the Columbian University, in Washington, D. C., and was later made doctor of philosophy and doctor of laws by the same institution. From 1862 to 1884, he was principal of the Columbian Preparatory School.

His anthropological researches began at the Smithsonian Institution, in 1872. In 1874, he was made a collaborator in ethnology, and began to arrange the hitherto unclassified anthropological collections. From these beginnings have grown the present ethnological and archeological exhibits of the National Museum, and its department of anthropology.

In 1884, Professor Mason gave up the directorship of the Columbian Preparatory School and thenceforth devoted all his time to the United States National Museum, as curator of ethnology, and, finally, as the head of the much-enlarged and reorganized department.

Professor Mason was an invaluable officer of the Smithsonian Institution; a gentleman of the old school—delighting all who came in contact with him by his cheer, bravery under many personal adversities, ready wit, and optimism; a rare friend, help, and a constant inspiration to his associates; and a highly prolific and able worker in his chosen branch of research. He contributed to the literature of archeology and especially ethnology, uninterruptedly (excepting during his periods of illness) from 1874 until the end—his last completed paper appearing from the printer's hands on the day of his burial. He further contributed to the progress of anthropology by his museum exhibits, by special exhibits during expositions, and by courses of lectures in the Columbian University as well as outside of Washington. He organized and promoted the Saturday lectures in the National Museum. He was for years an associate editor of the *American Naturalist*, and as-

sisted in Harper's "Annual Record of Science and Industry." In 1879, in company with J. M. Toner and Garrick Mallery, he participated in the first steps which resulted in the foundation of the Washington Anthropological Society. In 1889, his studies were declared by the French minister of instruction to be of public utility. In 1890, he was appointed a member of the national board of geographic names; and in the course of time he became a member of the leading anthropological societies in our own country and abroad.

The scientific work of Professor Mason was directed mainly to the American natives and covered a vast field of human activities. He was not able to personally carry on field work, but he described with rare precision and care the collections gathered in the Smithsonian Institution, and he brought together and collated much dispersed knowledge. And he had the rare gift of presenting the scientific data in such a style and manner that his works can be read with profit and pleasure by men and women of intelligence in all vocations. In some of the fields which he cultivated, such as that of American basketry, he covered the subject until but little can be added.

Most of Professor Mason's writings were published in the media of the Smithsonian Institution. A few of his principal contributions to science are: "The Latimer Collection of Antiquities from Porto Rico" (1876); "Throwing-Sticks in the National Museum" (1884); "Cradles of the American Aborigines" (1887); "Aboriginal Skin-Dressing" (1889); "North American Bows, Arrows, and Quivers" (1893); "Primitive Travel and Transportation" (1894); "Migration and the Food Quest" (1894); "Aboriginal American Harpoons" (1900); "Aboriginal American Basketry" (1884 and 1902); and many contributions in the "Handbook of American Indians" (1907, B. A. E.).

During the last four years, Professor Mason's aim, only partly accomplished, was to describe, in a thorough manner, the basketry, traps, etc., of Malaysia, represented in the National Museum by the rich W. L. Abbott collections.

Professor Mason's illness dated from 1898, when he was stricken with hemiplegia. From this, he was slowly but steadily recovering until the summer of this year, when his health commenced again to fail. As late as the 17th of October, he was still attending to his duties in the National Museum, but from that day on he rapidly failed, until the fatal termination.

His name, cherished by all those who knew him personally, will range in the history of anthropology side by side with those of Powell, Brinton and Gallatin. ALEŠ HRDLÍČKA

*THE CONVOCATION WEEK MEETING OF  
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE  
AND AFFILIATED SOCIETIES*

THE preliminary announcement of the sixtieth meeting of the American Association to be held in Baltimore from December 28, 1908, to January 2, 1909, has now been issued by the permanent secretary. The first general session of the association will be held at 10 o'clock on the morning of December 28, in McCoy Hall, the Johns Hopkins University. The meeting will be called to order by the retiring president, Professor E. L. Nichols, who will introduce the president of the meeting, Professor T. C. Chamberlin. Addresses of welcome will be delivered by Dr. Ira Remsen, president of the Johns Hopkins University, and by Dr. Wm. H. Welch, chairman of the local committee for the meeting, and President Chamberlin will reply.

Most of the sections of the association and of the affiliated societies will meet at the Johns Hopkins University or the Baltimore City College or Baltimore Medical College adjoining, or else at the Johns Hopkins Medical School. The School Board of Baltimore City, the Baltimore Woman's College, the Bryn Mawr Preparatory School and the Maryland Academy of Sciences have placed other rooms at the disposal of the committee.

At 8 o'clock P.M., on Monday, the retiring president will give his address in McCoy Hall. At the close of the address a reception will be tendered by President Remsen and the board of trustees of the Johns Hopkins University.

On the afternoons of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the addresses of the vice-presidents will be given. They are as follows: E. O. Lovett, Princeton; D. C. Miller, Cleveland; H. P. Talbot, Boston; O. H. Landreth, Schenectady; J. P. Iddings, Chicago; E. B. Wilson, New York; C. E. Bessey, Lincoln; Franz Boas, New York; J. F. Crowell, New York; Ludvig Hektoen, Chicago; Elmer Ellsworth Brown, Washington.

On these and the following days the sections and societies will hold their regular sessions. It is expected that there will be joint meetings when the same subjects are covered, and that some meetings will be arranged for of general interest to all members of the association. No definite arrangements are announced for the general evening functions after Monday night. Dinners and meetings of special societies and groups, smokers and informal meetings, may be arranged.

On Thursday, December 31, a meeting of the American Health League will be called in conjunction with Section I, and a symposium on "Public Health" will be held.

On Friday, January 1, there will be held a celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and of the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the "Origin of Species." This will consist of a morning and afternoon program of addresses by prominent naturalists, to be followed by a dinner at night at which further addresses will be made.

A railroad rate of one fare and three fifths for the round trip, on the certificate plan, has been granted by the Trunk Line Association, the New England Passenger Association (excepting via N. Y., Ont. and W. Ry., the Eastern Steamship Company and the Bangor and Aroostook R. R.), the Eastern Canadian Passenger Association and the Central Passenger Association. The Western Association has on sale revised one-way fares in effect to Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis, with the understanding that persons can repurchase from these points and take advantage of any reduced fares that may be authorized therefrom. The fares to Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis